1: Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

After the plants have attained the height of about 6 in., they are earthed up. When the leaves turn yellow, it is a sign that the potatoes are ripe. The different kinds of sweet potatoes grown and the yam and another kind of esculent root—*u sohphlang* (*flemingia vestita Benth.*) will be noticed under the head of "Crops."

The Khasis possess very few agricultural sayings and proverbs, but the following may be quoted as examples:—

(1) *Wat ju ai thung jingthung ne bet symbai ha uba sniew kti.*

Do not allow plants to be planted or seeds to be sown by one who has a bad hand.

As elsewhere, there is a belief amongst the Khasis that some people's touch as regards agriculture is unlucky.

(2) *Thung dieng ne bet symbai haba ngen bnai, ym haba shai u bnai.*

Plant trees or sow seeds not when the moon is waxing, but when it is on the wane.

(3) *Wei la saw bha ka bneng sepngi jan miet phin sa ioh jingrang lashai.*

A red sky in the west in the evening is the sign of fine weather to-morrow.

Cf. our English proverb "a red sky in the morning is a shepherd's warning, a red sky at night is a shepherd's delight."

CROPS.

The varieties of rice found in the Khasi Hills are divided into two main classes, one grown as a dry crop on high lands, and the other raised in valleys and hollows which are artificially irrigated from hill streams. The lowland rice is more productive than that grown on high lands, the average per acre of the former, according to the agricultural bulletin, as ascertained from the results of 817 experimental crop cuttings carried out during the fifteen years preceding the year 1898, being 11.7 maunds of paddy per acre, as against an average of 9.4 maunds per acre (resulting from 667 cuttings made during the

1:Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

243 same period) for the latter.* The average out-turn of both
433 kinds is extremely poor, as compared with that of any description of rice grown in the plains. The rice grown in the hills is said by the Agricultural Department to be of inferior quality, the grain when cleaned being of a red colour, and extremely
244 coarse. The cultivation of potatoes is practically confined to the Khasi Hills, there being little or none in the Jaintia Hills. The normal out-turn of the summer crop sown in February and harvested in June is reported by the Agricultural Department to be five times the quantity of seed used, and that of the winter crop, sown in August and September on the land from which the summer crop has been taken, and harvested in December, twice the quantity of seed. The winter crop is raised chiefly for the purpose of obtaining seed for the spring sowings, as it is found difficult to keep potatoes from the summer crop in good condition till the following spring. The usual quantity of seed used to the acre at each sowing is about 9 maunds, so that the gross out-turn of an acre of land cultivated with potatoes during the year may be taken at 63 maunds, and the net out-turn, after deducting the quantity of seed used, at 45 maunds. The above estimate of the Agricultural Department rests chiefly on the statements of the cultivators, and has not been adequately tested by experiment.

244 Since the appearance of the potato disease in 1885-86 there
439 has been a great decrease in the area under potato cultivation. In 1881-82 the exports of potatoes from the district were as high as 126,981 maunds. From 1886-87 the exports began annually to decrease until in 1895-96 the very low figure of 8,296 maunds was reached. The figures of export for the last nine years are as follows:—

1896-97	16,726	maunds.
1897-98	7,805	"
1898-99	9,272	"
1899-00	5,422	"
1900-01	29,142	"
1901-02	38,251	"
1902-03	36,047	"
1903-04	50,990	"

* See Bulletin No. 5 of the Agricultural Department of Assam, 1898, pp. 4 and 5.

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

vation is impossible because of the cold climate. In the past, Khasi economy must have remained at a very primitive stage.

Potato cultivation has been much encouraged along with the development of Shillong and the opening of the motor road to Gauhati from Shillong after the Independence of India when Shillong became the seat of the Assam Government, as well as the capital of the Khasi-Jaintia Hills. Shillong has become an important trading centre, where big merchants collect the harvests of potatoes in exchange for rice, clothes and various other goods from the Assam valley. These changes have introduced the Khasis into an active commercial economy which again has brought about various changes in their social life. Recently coal excavations have started in the upland Khasi Hills, and many Khasi become miners.

Thus the history of the Khasi Hills during the last hundred years has changed a great deal the picture of the Hills. However, dark corners still remain in Bhoi, War and in the area bordering on the Garo Hills. These have been kept in a vacuum between the Hindu civilization of the bordering plain and the modernization of the uplands centred in Shillong. In these areas, the people are still practising primitive jhum cultivation. I have chosen two villages in War located in one of these area as subjects of my major field-work.

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15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

Shella

Confederacy forms a more marked endogamous community, through being cut off geographically and economically from the rest of the Khasi, and socially from the neighbouring Hindu people.

The Economy and the People.

Shella lies along the upper part of the Shella River and stretches upwards along the steep slope, looking down towards the Bengal plain. The climate of this part of the hills is considered to be one of the worst in tropical India for human habitation. The Bengal plain, though warmer than this area, is considered more healthy. This border land is the zone of malaria, typhoid, black fever, cholera, etc. None of the Bengalee peasants dare to live in such an area. However, it is the most fertile for products such as betel-nuts, pan-leaves, oranges, bananas and pineapples, and it also produces limestone. These people seem to prefer to settle in this zone and to enjoy its prosperity, at the expense of human lives: every year, especially between March and September, the inhabitants suffer from various fevers and dysentry and other diseaes, many of the weaker facing death.

Before the Partition of India and Pakistan, the products of Shella were carried down the Shella River to Sylhet, one of the biggest centres in East Bengal, which brought unimaginable wealth to the Shella people. Their houses were built by carpenters from Sylhet. The style and structure of these houses were exceptionally elaborate for the Khasi. They purchased vast rice fields in the plain, which used to be cultivated by Bengalee and Garo labourers engaged by them. These Khasi do not themselves know how to cultivate rice fields; they have always been managers or landowners. Their boys used to be sent to high schools and colleges in Sylhet. As a result of their trading with the Bengalee, many of them read and speak fluent Bengalee. There is no difference between their style of clothing and that of the Bengalee, though the women maintain their traditional dress in the Shella style.

They have thus been distinguished from the rest of the Khasi not only geographically, but also economically and culturally. Their personality also differs sharply from the rest of the Khasi. They are very sociable, and quick, a quality lacking among the Khasi of Sohkynduh and Kongton. They are clever enough to deal with strangers. The upland Khasi say Shella people are very cunning. This remark shows one side of these people. They had to be cunning, since they traded with the Sylhet Bengalee who were said to be the most cunning of their race. Their role in the trade and in the history of the modernization of the Hills was considerable. For centuries they represented intellectual Khasi owing to their contact with Hindu civilization, while the Hills remained in darkness. They assumed an important role when the British established an administration in the Hills, and even up to now, many leading Khasi originated from this area: for instance, Lati Hat, the first interpreter of the British Headquarters at Cherrapunjee; Jeebon Roy, who was the first Magistrate among the Khasi; Maham Sing, a lawyer and Member of the Legislative Assembly (the grandson of Jeebon Roy); Nichols Roy, Minister of Health and Prisons of the Assam Government, Member of the Legislative Assembly, and Missionary of the Church of God; R. R. Thomas (brother of Nichols Roy), Principal of the Gauhati University, etc.

Through constant cultural contact with Hindu, and encouraged by their economic prosperity, the Shella Khasi, like the Jaintias, have been much influenced by Hindu culture. However, this does not mean that the people of Shella adopted the Hindu beliefs. Though there is a small Hindu shrine, and some ceremonial elements were borrowed from the Hindu, most of the

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

wife who lives with him. [Shella] The Khasi woman lives with her mother. Some say the Khasi woman is his second wife, other say their marriage is not recognized by the public. 563

Actually, owing to the bad climate, very few non-Khasi live in this area. Besides the two non-Khasi just mentioned, there were a Bengalee tax collector and an Assamese Forest Officer, both of whom lived at Shella Bazaar. Bengalee villages are situated about five miles south of Shella. Except in the bazaar, Bengalee and Khasi have no social contact with each other, and intermarriages have been rare.

However, it is obvious that in the past the Khasi must have had many cases of intermarriage with Bengalee. Among the Khasi, there is a clan called 'Dkhar.' The term 'Dkhar' is also used for the peoples of the plains: Bengalee are called 'Dkhar' by the Khasi. They say that the Dkhar clan originated in Bengalee girls who married Khasi men and who went to live in the Hills. It is said that in older days, the Khasi often raided the Sylhet plain and kidnapped Bengalee girls as well as goods. In Bengalee records of Sylhet, Khasi appear as 'bloody Khasi.' Khasi old men say that in order to increase their population they did sometimes kidnap Bengalee girls, but that they treated these girls very nicely and kindly, no differently from their own people. Since they follow the matrilineal system, they decided to name their descendants 'Dkhar.' It is said that all the present Dkhar people are descendants of such marriages. The Dkhar are found more on the southern slopes of the Khasi Hills i.e. among the Wars. 101 563

It seems there were many reasons for the descendants by marriage between the Khasi and the Bengalee to become Khasi. First of all, it is said that in the olden days the Khasi wanted to increase the population by such marriages. At the same time, a Bengalee who married a Khasi became an outcast from his or her own society owing to the caste system, and this inevitably made them Khasi. Secondly, the Khasi were primarily grouped into the *iing*, and they considered the marriage relation as of secondary importance. Hence it was rather difficult to remove by marriage a Khasi man or woman from their native place. Thirdly, Khasi could hardly live in the plain where no betel-nut or pan-leaf gardens were available; they could not engage in rice cultivation in the plain, as the technique is entirely different from the cultivation of betel-nut or pan-leaf. Moreover, they said they could not stand the heat in the plain. Therefore, the orientation of intermarriages was always towards the Khasi community: the Khasi brought outsiders to their own land; they did not themselves leave.

Such a marked tendency on the part of the Khasi to remain attached to their own homeland, is in no way contradictory with the phenomena of their migration to places outside the Khasi Hills, owing to the exploitation of their homeland and to the increase in population. The formation of Jatinga represents such an instance; there are also the cases of modern Khasi women from sophisticated urban areas, who easily leave their homeland, after marriage with a non-Khasi; this also appears in the following data on Jatinga. 161 167 [563]

JATINGA

Jatinga is a Khasi village situated in the North Cachar Hills, three miles west from Haflong, the headquarters of the North Cachar Hills. The number of households was about sixty in February 1956. Their economy depends on the pan-leaf, orange and pineapple gardens, similar to that of the Shella people. 131 621 433

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

workers and they were few in number.[1] They were particularly employed for such work as the clearing of jungle for new pan gardens in summer.

In the orange season (December to February) the number of workers increased and they were paid more: Rs. 1/8 were paid[2] for one load (one person carrying 80 pounds of oranges, from an orange garden to the railway station—about two miles). Usually a worker made three to five trips a day. Many workers from Jaintia used to come for this particular season.

Semi-permanent workers were engaged for wet rice fields. They were usually Hindu cultivators: since these Khasi and other tribes do not know the technique of wet cultivation, plains people like the Bihâree immigrants were engaged. These workers were provided with servants' quarters where they lived with their wives and children. However, very few Jatinga households possessed rice fields.

The economic prosperity of Jatinga reached its climax during the period from 1934 to 1940. Since 1942, the orange production has been decreasing. In 1945, a serious disease attacked the orange gardens as well as the pan-leaf gardens. Besides, by depriving Jatinga, as it had Shella, of their most important markets, Dacca and Sylhet, the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 caused a serious economic depression in the whole region. On the other hand, because of the past prosperity, the population has rapidly increased during the last ten years. The serious economic condition of Jatinga is illustrated in the petition which was submitted by the Jatinga people when the Governor of Assam visited those areas in January 1956. It runs thus:

"Since the last ten years or so, with the increase of population in the village and with the loss of fertility of the soil, the people were faced with economic depression. At present they are facing acute shortage of land they have also no scope to adopt other forms of cultivation like jhuming and wet rice cultivation, etc. Moreover, there has been successive attack of Bright's disease which destroyed and wiped out all the orange and pan gardens. And as such, majority of the families have to depend for their livelihood on daily wages. . . ."

It is indeed a serious situation for them, because the Khasi do not produce staple foods, such as rice; their economy is completely dependent on the trade of their products by which they purchase their main provisions, clothes, etc. Other peoples round Jatinga, being jhum cultivators, can at least get rice and cotton: the minimum requirements, staple foods and clothing are available even in the worst conditions, so that they can at least maintain themselves though the standard of living is low. As I stated before, a few households in Jatinga possessed rice fields, but the majority had none. Recently they rented some plots of jhum field for rice cultivation from Zemi-Naga of neighbouring villages.[3] However, its yield was but a small percentage of their consumption. A few

1. If they had worked in the gardens of Jatinga, they might have got more profit than from their own jhum fields. For one day's labour, they got Ans. 8/. For one month, they could earn Rs. 15 with which they could buy about 4-5 maunds of rice (one maunds paddy cost Rs. 3-4). For one year it became 50 maunds, which was impossible to produce in a jhum field by a single person's labour.
2. These rates, including the figures of note 1, apply to 1956.
3. Jatinga villagers told me that Zemi-Naga were kind enough to lend them their field for a negligible rent, though they had not enough for themselves. Zemi-Naga said that they owed much to Jatinga in the past, so that now they sympathised with the condition of Jatinga, and offered some parts of their jhum field.

pendable water supply. Villages are about two to five miles apart, and have no boundary markers. In the past, villages contained semipublic buildings and grounds, the home of the village priest (also the home of a chief if he resided in that village), the village marketplace, and tree groves, cremation grounds, or other awesome spots that were believed to be inhabited by supernatural beings. Villages today may have also one or more Christian churches, government social welfare buildings, and schools. Formerly, villages were entered through a guarded gateway; this is no longer the case, and paths feed into villages from all directions. Often several villages are nucleated into one large unit, named and also described as a "village." These were once defense units, but were so uncohesive otherwise that institutionalized rivalry obtained among the component villages. Now, they have been integrated through the agency of all-village public services, especially schools. **Housing.** The traditional Khasi house is entered through a door at the rounded end of a U-shaped ground plan, and is about 20 feet at widest extent; it is about 30 feet deep, and is elliptical or hogback in profile. Its walls are of stone blocks cemented with mud. The roof of grass thatch, supported by a bamboo frame, overhangs the walls on their outside, down to about three feet above the ground. The house is divided into two parts: the front one-third is on the ground level, floored either with stone blocks or tamped earth, and is used for storage of occupational instruments and as a shelter for poultry. The rear two-thirds is raised four feet on piles of stone blocks to a platform of planks, and is partitioned into six rooms, comprising a kitchen, areas for storage of food and water, and sleeping quarters. Furniture is minimal, and the house is totally undecorated. There are no windows, and no smoke vents. A house generally has a companion shed, walled of wood and grass matting and thatched with grass. This serves as a pigsty, but it may be partitioned also to house cows, and it may have a loft for fuel storage. Compounds often contain garden plots, and are fenced around with stone or bamboo and mud. Nowadays, the traditional house has given way to Western-style bungalows of wood and tin, especially in and around Shillong. [Cf. Mukherjee et al. 1941.]

ECONOMY. The Khasi economy is a market economy based on agriculture, and most Khasis are primary producers, sellers, middlemen, and/or providers of services in connection with markets. Khasis are often multioccupational: they produce goods for partial subsistence, and also play some part in trade. **Agriculture.** On the Shillong plateau, the major field crops are potatoes, maize, millets, and dry rice, still produced mostly through swidden farming, with a two- to three-year period of fallow, but increasingly through continuous use of a single field with the aid of ma-

243 on from October to December. For millets the seed is sown in April-May and reaped about six months later. Maize is usually sown in
244 April-May and ripens in August - September. For potato, generally three crops are raised in the district ; the first is sown in December-January and harvested in April-May, the second is sown in February-March and is gathered in June-July and the third is sown in July-August and is harvested in November-December.

245 For oranges and betelnut the orchards are cleared of weeds twice a year. Harvesting of orange takes place from October to January. Betelnut ripens at the beginning of the year and are collected between February and May.

241 2.6.3 **Agricultural implements.**—The usual agricultural implements are a hoe, a sickle, three or four kinds of doas, a harrow, a crowbar which is used for the construction of irrigation channels, 'sierras' and winnowing baskets. Bullock drawn plough is used in wet paddy cultivation in parts of Jowai subdivision and in Bhoi area and resembles the one in use in the plains of the State.

2. 6. 4. **General cultural practices.**—The cultivators mostly adhere to their indigenous practices of cultivation. Rotation of crops is not widely used. Cultivation of rice is usually done by broadcasting the seeds though transplanting is also in vogue in some areas. Mixed cropping is widely practised. Cultivation by making terraces in the hill slopes is gaining popularity in the district.

433 326 323 285 306 286 171 654 231 2.7 **Cottage Industries.**—Cottage Industries, it appears, have not found very great favour among the people of the district. A few families here and there manufacture iron implements, earthenware, pottery, baskets, mats and jewellery. In striking contrast with other districts weaving of cotton clothes is rare among the Khasis. The Mikirs in Bhoi area and in areas adjoining North Cachar and Mikir Hills practice it only for their domestic consumption. At present, the Government is trying to popularise weaving in the district and this has been welcomed by the Khasis. Among other cottage industries production of eri cocoon in the northern part of the district adjoining Kamrup district and bee keeping throughout the district are worth mentioning.

142 147 441 563 2.8 **The People.**—The Khasis and Jaintias are a short sturdy race distinct from the neighbouring hill tribes. By nature they are hardy and laborious and in respect of manual labour, they are free from any inhibition. Side by side with the Khasis live the Mikirs, Garos and Nepalis who form respectively 7.32 percent, 3.38 percent and 3·27 per cent of the total rural population. Besides, there are plains people who are mainly concentrated in the town of Shillong. In the marketing centres of the border area there are a large number of Bengali Hindus who dominate the bulk of the trade in the border areas.

241 433 461 2.9 **Occupation.**—The greater portion of the population of the district subsists on cultivation. More than 75 percent of the rural households are predominantly agricultural. The industrious Khasi agriculturists males and females have a high regard for hard labour

and even the well to do ones do not feel anything to work as labourers in other's farms. It is almost customary among the agriculturists to work in other's farms on wage basis, when agricultural operation in one's own farm are over. This is probably an outcome of the difficult transport situation. Among the non-agriculturists and those who follow agriculture as subsidiary occupation, a large number are porters and labourers engaged in jobs like transporting of goods from place to place, collection of limestone, sand, fuel, etc. Collieries and forests of the district also offer employment to a good number of people. Since the taking up of road programme under the plan, a large number of people are getting employment in construction of roads, etc. It is heartening to note that for construction of roads, nay for all kinds of works demanding unskilled labourers, the district locally supplies the whole labour force. People in the various local points of the district, particularly those living in higher hills are mainly engaged in trade. The Khasis are indefatigable traders and have been able to keep almost the whole of the small trade in the district in their own hands. A small proportion of the people are engaged in cottage industries such as stone cutting, brick making, bee keeping, blacksmithy, cane and bamboo works, etc.

The number of persons returned in the 1951 census under each of the eight main livelihood classes for the rural tract of the district was as follows.

TABLE 1

Number of Persons (Source 1951 Census)

Head	Male	Female	Total	P.C.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
A. Agricultural class:—				
1. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents.	90,603	92,107	1,82,710	59·89
2. Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependents.	16,014	16,109	32,123	10·53
3. Cultivating labourers and their dependents.	14,053	14,941	28,994	9·50
4. Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependents.	344	562	906	·30
Sub-total	1,21,014	1,23,719	2,44,733	80·22
B. Non-agricultural class:—				
5. Production other than cultivation.	11,791	10,309	22,103	7·24
6. Commerce	3,237	4,069	7,306	2·39
7. Transport	355	264	619	·20
8. Other services and miscellaneous sources.	17,462	12,864	30,326	9.95
Sub-total	32,848	27,506	60,354	19.788
Total	..	..	3,05,087	100.00

19: Assam G-5 (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

There is another 102·21 acres of land in Subacherra in the Indo Pakistan Border which is under tea plantation since prepartition period After partition this area has fallen into India. But at present though tea plantation is still carried on, the revenue has never been collected at all since the company has gone to Pakistan. 423 651 648

There are also in Jowai subdivision 15 numbers of building land sites, mostly leased out to non-Khasi individuals and institutions. They include building for churches, schools, hospitals and training classes, etc. The total area comes to 397·39 acres with a total revenue of Rs.216·84 per year. The period of the lease varies from one plot to another.

A part from land revenue, all the houses in Jowai subdivision are subjected to taxation. The rate is fixed at Rs.2 to Rs.6 per year according to the economic condition of the village. In Shillong subdivision only 31 Sirdarships which were formerly known as British Sirdarships have to pay house tax.

2.12 **Land Utilisation.**—The following table gives the area under important crops. 241 433

TABLE 2

	1958-59	
Winter rice	37,800	acres.
Maize	8,000	,,
Other cereals	1,000	,,
Potato	21,600	,,
Chillies	350	,,
Sweet potato	5,400	,,
Linseed	180	,,
Cotton	50	,,
Tobacco	600	,,
Arecanut	13,455	,,
Orange	20,000	,,
Betel-leaf	10,000	
Total	1,18,435	acres.

19: Assam G-S (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

3.3 **Measures so far taken.**—Since 1947, there has been constant demand from border people for relief and rehabilitation. Government undertook various measures to alleviate their difficulties. Government's attention to border problem has however, not been adequate. The common feeling of border people was that whenever the border problem deteriorated due to some adverse measures adopted by East Pakistan authorities more attention was attracted, on the other hand, when the situation eased comparatively the Government's vigilance also slackened.

The various measures so far adopted by Government in border area, have been fully discussed and commented upon by the Border Rehabilitation Committee. These need no repetition here. But a few points emerging from the grievances put forward by the villagers during our investigation are noted below.

On the question of the schemes linked up with the issue of diversification of agriculture in border area, a large section of the border people skilled in the maintenance and operation of orchards are opposed to the idea of a complete switch over from cash crops to food crops in the cultivation of which they have no adequate experience. Moreover, there is the problem of getting adequate land in the vicinity for wet paddy cultivation. Indeed, having lost the market for some of the cash crops, some cultivators are trying to increase cultivation of paddy and other valuable crops on their own initiative wherever suitable land is available. But the problem of getting adequate funds for reclamation and improvement of land has stood as a serious handicap to them. Financial assistance to the needy and willing cultivators for reclamation works and taking up of more minor irrigation projects is very necessary.

As regards Government loans granted to cultivators, people complained that apart from being inadequate they are often untimely. As a result the people, needy as they are, utilise the amount for meeting their day to day consumption expenses.

There have been complaints that various improved seeds supplied by Government are of very inferior quality leading to waste of time and money of the poor people. The Department of Agriculture should not only check the quality of the seeds before issue but should also see that the seed are properly used by inexperienced cultivators who are newly taking up cultivation of these crops.

With the opening up of a few vital P. W. D. Roads transport of border products to Shillong and other places has greatly been facilitated but the problems of transporting them from remote interiors to the various local points on P. W. D. roads still remains unsolved. While during winter season these places may be negotiated by a man on foot up and down the steep gradients, during rainy seasons these tracks become slippery, the streams and rivulets are over-flooded and it becomes impossible for a man to cross them, thus isolating the villages from each other leading to closure of trade and all other activities between villages. Properly planned test relief schemes for construction of feeder roads and bridges linking up these villages, will, apart from giving some works to the people alleviate much of the difficulties of transportation of agricultural produce.

Name of village (1)	Name of society (2)	Sponsored by (3)
7. Sutaga ...	(1) Cattle Society.	Local people
	(2) Co-operative Trading Society.	
8. Durrang ...	Marketing Society.	Do
9. Shella ...	Trading Co-operative Society.	Do.

6.10 **Cottage Industries.**—It has already been mentioned that Village and Cottage Industries are not very popular in the district.

The following table shows the industries reported from the sample villages :—

TABLE B-9

Industry (1)	No. of villages reporting existence of the industries. (2)	No. of villages reporting production for sale (3)
Cane and bamboo works ...	9	7
Blacksmithy	8	5
Tailoring	2	2
Handloom	...	...
Weaving and Spinning ...	3	1
Rearing of cocoons, etc. ...	1	1
Rearing of lac	1	1
Others	2	1

Blacksmithy and making of baskets, cane products, etc., out of cane and bamboo, are a traditional occupation. Weaving and spinning of cotton, rearing of muli cocoon and weaving of endi, etc., are in vogue only in the Sibsagar area and the areas adjoining Kamrup and North Cachar and Mikir Hills districts. Lac rearing is found in the northern portion of the district, *i.e.*, Mongoldoi area.

Except cane and bamboo works and blacksmithy other industries are practised in a very limited scale. There is thus a lot of scope for introducing cottage industries in the district.

19: Assam G-S (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

General area.—

1. [illegible]	.. Paddy and maize	.. .. Dao, hoe and plough	..	Bone-meal, dung and chemical.
2. Jowai	.. Paddy, maize and bengal-leaf	Dao, hoe and plough	..	No.
3. Byrnihat	.. Paddy, maize, etc.	Dao, hoe and plough	..	No.
4. Nongkseng	Paddy, maize and potato	.. Dao, hoe and plough	..	No.
5. Amlarem	.. Paddy, maize and millet	.. Dao, hoe and plough	..	No.
6. Langrinang	Paddy, maize and millet	.. Dao, hoe and plough	..	Dung and bone-meal.
7. Mawkhar	.. Paddy, potato and maize	.. Dao, hoe and plough	..	Bone-meal.
8. Laipansin	.. Paddy and maize	.. Dao, hoe and plough	..	No.
9. Dawki	.. Paddy, potato and maize	.. Dao and hoe ..	..	No.
10. Jowai	.. Turmeric, tapioca, millet and orange.	Dao and hoe ..	..	No.

This table reveals that in one region there is bias for cash crops and in the other for food crops—more or less depending upon the soil and topography of the regions. Extreme hardship occurs when there is deficiency in food production or a glut in the market of cash crops. The cash crop producers are, of course, trying to adapt their crops to the changing market conditions. With the loss of market for oranges, the people in the border areas are trying to increase their betelnut production and start cultivating paddy, potatoes, etc. Throughout the district, people are trying to increase wet paddy cultivation. Wherever water is available, they spare no pain to convert it into a wet paddy field. Similarly, increasing interest is evident among the people in the cultivation of valuable crops like black-pepper, cashewnut, etc., which have a good prospect in the border areas. It is felt that there is considerable scope for intensification of cultivation of chillies, turmeric, coffee, etc. But any new endeavour demands heavy initial investment which often is not within the reach of cultivators. Government should continue to advance adequate agricultural loans to the needy cultivators in a better planned manner.

Only 19 out of 28 villages reported use of bullock driven ploughs for wet paddy cultivation. But even in these villages animal power is not universally used. Of course, in the rocky fields people have no alternative to the use of hoes and spades but in some areas particularly in the wet paddy field, bullock driven ploughs may profitably be utilised. It is not that the farmers do not realise the advantage of ploughing but want of funds for purchase of bullocks, etc., is reported to be the cause of continuance of the old practice. Both broadcasting and transplanting methods are in vogue in paddy cultivation the latter being a recent introduction is gaining popularity. Some farmers in the project area villages have tried line sowing but according to them it is very laborious and amounts to

3.2: The following table shows the classification of population by age and sex in the three areas :—

Age and Sex Composition of Population

Age Group	Border area			Project area			General area		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1. Below 5 yrs.	948	848	621 (10·92)	946	386	332 (10·48)	10	8	18 (10·71)
2. 5 to below 15 yrs.	484	454	938 (34·97)	848	870	718 (33·89)	140	132	272 (38·60)
3. 15 to below 45 yrs.	1425	1273	2698 (47·01)	728	840	1568 (49·43)	186	164	350 (46·78)
4. 45 yrs. & above	26	42	68 (1·09)	16	32	48 (1·19)	6	2	8 (1·93)
Total	1790	1586	3376 (100·00)	1687	1528	3165 (100·00)	480	427	748 (100·00)
No. of females per 1,000 males	—	1074	—	—	—	1096	—	—	890

It is seen that the population under 15 years of age in the border area, project area and general area were respectively 45 per cent, 45 per cent and 35 per cent of the total population in those areas, while that under age group 'between 15 to 45 years' constituted respectively 57 per cent, 53 per cent 55 per cent of the population in the three areas.

It is evident that population of females was on a whole greater than that of male in border area and project area and less in general area. The number of females per 1,000 males in border area, project area and general area were respectively 1,074, 1,096 and 890 against the 1951 census figure of 901 females per 1,000 males in the rural areas of the district of United K.J. Hills.

3.3: The following table shows the classification of population by religion.

TABLE C-3

Classification of Population by Religion

Area	Tribal religion	Christianity	Hinduism	Other religion	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Border area	3376 (100·00)	1215 (36·00)	1868 (55·33)	93 (2·67)	3376 (100·00)
2. Project area	3165 (57·00)	1218 (38·48)	1947 (61·52)	0·00	3165 (100·00)
3. General area	748 (74·73)	171 (22·86)	77 (10·41)	0·00	748 (100·00)

Population following Hinduism and other religion in the border area comprises mostly of displaced persons from East Pakistan following trade and business as their means of livelihood, while those in the general and project area are mainly the Nagalese who are generally engaged in cattle rearing and agriculture.

4.11 A perusal of the table above will show that proportion of families following non-agricultural labour as principal occupation is highest in Chandan areas. Majority of these families were formerly engaged in agriculture but due to adverse circumstances arising out of fragmentation, were forced to take to other occupations. Two other castes and several S.T. tribes gave employment to a large section of these people. Other avenues of employment are collection and carriage of timber, woodcutting, and carting of merchandise, etc. Traders in cashewnuts and groundnut who formed the bulk of the traders in the border area are largely the displaced persons and the Bengali people concentrated in Bhadgaon and Dabe. Others are petty traders dealing in fruits, vegetables, fish, clothes and other foodstuff. Under employers manufacturers, etc., except the liquor distillers, blacksmiths, carpenters, etc., Commission agents, Salesmen, Insurers, etc., are shown as others.

4.12 In the following table the families in the three village groups are classified according to their subsidiary occupation.

As is apparent, agriculture comes out to be the single major industry giving employment to about 3/4th of the employed persons. In Bundelkhand this accounts for 78 per cent of the total employed persons. Among the other industries giving employment to the rest of the employed persons come in order of importance, construction (3 per cent), trade and commerce (3 per cent), mining and quarrying (2 per cent) and manufactures such as manufacture of handicraft, production of garments, other wood and stone products (2 per cent). In Project area, apart from agriculture which accounts for 78 per cent other industries in order of importance of employment were construction (11 per cent), service and profession, manufacture, trade and livestock (both over each), and mining (2 per cent). In Central area agriculture gives employment to 86 per cent of the population. Next to it come livestock mining, manufacture and forestry which account for 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively of the total employed persons.

19: Assam G-5 (1956) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

CHAPTER VIII

Farm Output and sale

8.1 As a large majority of the family income is mainly from their farms, an attempt is made below to analyse the data collected on farm output, disposal and sale of produce. The data relate to the agricultural year March, 1962 to February, 1963.

8.2 **Output:** The following table sets forth some interesting data on farm output average cultivated area, cost of cultivation by value groups.

TABLE F-1

Number of families by Gross output group

Gross output group (Rs)	Sample area		Project area		General area	
	No. of families	Average cultivated area (acres)	No. of families	Average cultivated area (acres)	No. of families	Average cultivated area
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
0	50 (7)	5.17	29 (4)	5.64	5 (1)	2.75
Zero-Rupee 1-0	177 (25)	1.80	67 (9)	3.58	10 (2)	1.15
101—250	109 (15)	3.97	58 (8)	4.89	10 (2)	3.45
251—500	103 (14)	4.81	158 (22)	5.07	21 (4)	3.91
501—1,000	142 (19)	6.03	338 (47)	6.17	68 (13)	4.41
1,001—2,000	71 (9)	10.41	69 (11)	9.9	15 (3)	5.00
2,001—5,000	40 (5)	15.04	8 (1)	10.5	1	12.00
5,001—10,000	7 (1)	17.71	5 (1)	19.40	—	—
10,001 and above	25 (3)	17.83	3	42.67	—	—
Total —	734 (100)		811 (100)		177 (100)	

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TABLE F-2

Number of Families

Gross output group	Border area				Project area				General area			
Rs.	Small farms	Medium farms	Large farms	Total	Small farms	Medium farms	Large farms	Total	Small farms	Medium farms	Large farms	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
0	35	22	8	50	17	3	—	20	1	1	—	2
Less than 100	142	30	1	177	41	6	1	47	9	1	—	10
100 — 200	75	45	2	120	69	14	1	84	31	6	—	37
200 — 400	63	85	13	161	95	37	3	135	32	18	1	51
400 — 1000	18	47	35	100	54	100	4	158	19	33	4	56
1000 — 2000	3	24	30	57	4	43	10	57	—	11	3	14
2000 — 3000	—	9	11	20	—	—	6	6	—	—	1	1
3000 — 4000	1	1	5	7	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
4000 and above	—	4	6	10	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—

As is to be expected, large output groups are associated with higher farm size groups. It will also be seen that proportion of farms with an output of less than Rs. 500.00 per annum in Border area, Project area and General area are respectively 67 per cent, 55 per cent and 60 per cent. A joint consideration of the proportions and the size of cultivated area in the three groups indicates that the large majority of farms in Border area are less profitable than those in the other two areas though the farms in Border area are sown with very rich cash crops. This is further amplified by the fact that in Border area of the total number of farms fetching less than Rs. 500.00 a year, 35 per cent are medium sized farms and 6 per cent are large sized farms, the corresponding percentages for the Project area being 23 per cent and 1 per cent and for General area 37 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

8.3.—The following table summarises the data on relative importance of crops, harvested area under different crops, average yeild of crops and sale proceeds, etc.

TABLE F-3
Yield rate of some important crops

Crop	Border area			Project area			General area		
	Gross farm area harvested (in acres)	Average yield per acre	Sale proceed (Rs.0.00)	Gross farm area harvested (in acre)	Average yield per acre	Sale proceed (Rs.0.00)	Gross farm area harvested (in acre)	Average yield per acre	Sale proceed (Rs.0.00)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1. Betel leaf	298.69	17.15	15037	18.10	80.64	7867	10.50	24	496
	(9)	(kuri)	(5)	(3)	(kuri)	(8)	(2)	(kuri)	(2)
2. Arecanut	991.80	5.93	18025	13.90	4·11	4719	8r50	3.03	1098
	(31)	(lati)	(60)	(1)	(lati)	(5)	(1)	(lati)	(4)
3. Orange	1018.17	3.27	6040	52.36	16·76	3128	21.25	2·80	71
	(31)	(lati)	(39)	(5)	(lati)	(5)	(4)	(lati)	(..)
4. Potato	20.70	17.49	1116	28.31	23.77	1148	37.40	27.16	1075
	(1)	(mds)	(—)	(3)	(mds)	(1)	(7)	(mds)	(39)
5. Paddy	645.76	8.38	17000	1401.89	12.92	77263	243.75	12.64	1209
	(19)	(mds)	(6)	(82)	(mds)	(77)	(61)	(mds)	(45)
6. Millet	101.98	3·51	370	0·10	8.78	131	22.99	6.96	737
	(3)	(mds)	(—)	(—)	(mds)	(—)	(6)	(mds)	(3)
7. Tapioca	26·25	24.61	601	..	—	..	6.75	37.00	225
	(1)	(mds)	(—)	—	—	..	(1)	(mds)	(—)
8. Yam	20.80	9.60	350	3.60	1944	90	1.87	23.45	35
	(2)	(mds)	(—)	(..)	(mds)	(—)	(—)	(mds)	(..)
9 Others	268.68	..	10194	126·96	..	3204	129.41	..	3821
	(7)	..	(5)	(8)	..	(4)	(12)	..	(19)
Total	3124.93	..	1,08,494	1970.40	..	1,06,127	584.87	..	20,412
	(100)	..	(100)	(100)	..	(100)	(100)	..	(100)

N.B. (a) 1 lati=3½ acs. in the case of orange.
=6400 " " betelnut.
(b) 1 Kuri = 100 leaves.
(c) Potato here relates to potat harvested in winter months.

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241 311 433 8·4—**Relative importance of crops**—Total gross farm area harvested amounted to 3324.48 acres in Border area, 1700.40 acres in Project area and 561 acres in General area.

From above table it will be seen that in Border area, orange accounted for the highest proportion of harvested area, *i.e.*, 31 per cent, followed in order of importance by betel nut, paddy, betel leaf and millet which respectively accounts for 17 per cent, 19 per cent, 9 per cent and 3 per cent of the total harvested area. Other crops which account for 248.68 acres (7 per cent) includes maize, tezpata, banana, turmeric, dal, blackpepper and other fruit crops.

Considering sale proceeds, it is clear that betelnut happens to be the main earner accounting for 60 per cent of the total sale proceeds followed by orange, paddy and betel leaf which respectively account for 22 per cent, 6 per cent and 5 per cent of the total sale proceeds. Thus orange and betel leaf which in pre-partition days were the main earner-crops in the Border area have been passed to second and forth position respectively—the proportions fetched by them, particularly by betel leaf, being negligible. On other hand as there is a good market for betel nut, Border people have taken to betel nut cultivation in a more extensive scale.

241 245 311 433 It is significant that while in Border area total farm area is 3914 acres, total area harvested comes to only 3325 acres including area under mixed cropping which is in wide practice in Border area particularly for orange, betelnut, and for some other minor crops. Thus proportion of unharvested farm area emerges out to be considerable which can be accounted for the following reasons:—

(1) The farm area includes some new gardens particularly of betelnuts which usually take quite a few years to bear fruits.

[44] (2) Reportedly a large number of orange and betel-leaf gardens were not harvested at all as there was no market for them.

241 433 44 Turning our attention to Project area and General area, it will be found that paddy eclipses all other crops in as much as in the two areas it respectively covers 82 per cent and 61 per cent of the total harvested area in the respective area. In Project area paddy is followed by Betel leaf, orange, potato and betelnut in order of importance while in General area it is followed by potato, millet, orange, betel leaf and betelnut. In both the areas as will be seen from table above, almost all the crops retain their respective position in value. Considering sale proceed, in Project area, paddy occupies the highest position accounting for 77 per cent of the total sale proceeds followed by betel leaf, orange, betelnut and potato accounting respectively for 8 per cent, 5 per cent, 5 per cent and 1 per cent of the total sale proceeds. In General area, in order of importance of sale proceed paddy, potato and betelnut are worth mentioning fetching respectively 45 per cent, 30 per cent and 4 per cent of the total sale proceeds.

8·5—In the following paragraphs we have reproduced the yield rates of different crops, calculated on the basis of area harvested and total produces reported by the cultivators. For assesment of correct yield rates it is necessary to conduct a scientifically designed crops cutting survey which in view of its largeness in magnitude and other complexities associated with the type of experiments, could not be fitted in with the programme of the present survey. It is admitted that the yield estimates worked out by us are proved to be subjected to the usual limitations of this type of data. 128 433

Yield

1. **Paddy.**—It will be seen from table above that average yields of paddy per acre for Border area, General area and Project area are respectively 8.38 maunds, 12.92 maunds and 12.60 maunds and for the district as a whole it comes to 11.65 maunds though there are cases where maximum yield goes to above 18 maunds per acre. Thus it is seen that the average yield is much less than the average yield for the State of Assam (plain district) which is above 18 maunds per acre. Average yield in Border area is evidently much smaller. Apart from low fertility of land, another reason for this low average is that in a number of villages selected from Border area such as Syndai, Amki and Lumshnong, there was widespread havoc to standing crops was caused by wild elephants. 243 433 [136]

2. **Potato.**—The average for the three areas comes to 21·61 maunds per acre which is in contrast to the State average of above 40 maunds per acre. Our estimate has in fact been lowered due to inclusion of a few villages in the foot hills where potatoes don't grow well, otherwise in a number of high altitude villages, yield per acre well exceeded 40 maunds. The average for Border area is rather too low. Apart from unsuitability of Border land of high altitude potatoes another reason for this low average is that during the reference year the crop suffered from widespread incidence of pests and insects. 244 433 [136]

3. **Orange.**—yield of orange in Border area, Project area and General area was found to be 5. 87 luties or 5396 numbers against 16.76 luties or 17162 numbers and 2.80 luties or 2867 numbers respectively Thus the average yield in Border area, even considering the mixed nature of some gardens is much low. The reasons are obvious. 245 433

4. **Betelnut.**—Average yield per acre from Border area, Project area and General area was found to be 2.93 luties (18752 numbers), 4.11 luties (26304 numbers) ann 3.03 luties (19392 numbers) respectively bringing the average for all the three areas to 2.95 luties per acre. 249 433

5. **Betel leaf.**—Average yield per acre works out as 17·15 kuris, 10.64 kuris and 24 kuris in Border area, Project area and General area respectively. Thus in Border area the average is much lower. This is due to the fact that most of the gardens remained unplucked for want of market for leaf.

426 Of the total number of loans 81 per cent in Border area, 18 per cent in Project area and 20 per cent in General area were free of interest while rate of interest for 9 per cent, 30 per cent and 60 per cent respectively of the loans in the three areas were found to be 20 per cent or more per annum which in cases ranged upto 200 per cent.

241 434 592 10.8. Farm output of 67 per cent of the families in Border area, 56 per cent of families in Project area and 60 per cent of families in General area wee less than Rs. 500. a year, while 5 per cent, 30 per cent and 1 per cent of the families in the respective area earned more than Rs. 2000·00 a year from their farms. Of the total number of farms fetching less than or Rs. 500.00 a year in Border area 35 per cent of them are medium sized farms and 4 per cent large sized farms, the corresponding proportions for Project area and General area being 21 per cent, 1 per cent, 27 per cent and 1 per cent.

24 433 10.9. In Border area the most important crops are oranges, betelnut, paddy, and betel leaf which respectively accounted for 31 per cent, 27 per cent, 19 per cent and 9 per cent of the total harverted area. In Project area paddy and orange are the most important crop which accounted respectively for 82 per cent and 8 per cent of the total harvested area. The most important crops in the General area are paddy and potato which respectively accounted for 61 per cent and 7 per cent of the total harvested area.

On the basis of data collected for all the villages investigated average yield per acre worked out at paddy 11.65 maunds, potato 21.61 maunds, oanges 5.7 lutis (5908 numbers) and betelnut 2.95 lutis (12980 numiers). These yield exhibited wide variation among the three areas.

434 592 10.10. Proportion of families with annual gross income of less than Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to less than Rs. 3,000, and above Rs. 3,000, were respectively found to be 49 per cent, 45 per cent and 6 per cent in Border area, 36 per cent, 60 per cent and 6 per cent in Project area and 45 per cent, 54 per cent and 1 per cent in General area. Average annual gross income per family worked out at Rs. 1,076·50 in Border area, Rs. 1,229.40 nP. in Project area and Rs. 844·36 nP. in General area which for predominantly agricultural and non-agricultural families respectively stood at Rs. 1,025·06 nP. and Rs. 1,161.91 nP. in Border area, Rs. 1,095·33 nP. and 1,644·36 nP. in Project area and Rs. 873.98 nP. and 780·84 nP. in General area. In all the three areas main contributors to family income were agriculture, service-profession-labour and trade accounting respecwely for 41 per cent, 35 per cent and 15 per cent of the total average income in Border area, 37 per cent, 40 per cent and 9 per cent in Projct area and 53 per cent, 36 per cent and 5 per cent in General area.

The net annual income per family in different income groups varied between R. 60 to 1,949 in Border area, between Rs. 110 to Rs. 3,500 in Projct area and between Rs. 98 to Rs. 2,004 in General area. The averag over all per family net annual income worked out at Rs. 823 in Beder area, Rs. 987 in project area and Rs. 759 in General area and the same per capita at Rs. 231 in Border area, Rs. 216 in Projct area and Rs. 253 in General area.

TABLE F-3

Yield rate of some Important crops

Crop	Gross area harvested (acre)	Total yield (unit below)	Quantity consumed	Quantity value (Rs. 0·00)	Quantity sold	Sale Value	Average yield per acre
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Border area :—							
a. Betel leaf ..	298·69(8·98)	5121·59	832·09	2953·92	4240·50	15637·00(4·94)	17·15
b. Betel nut ..	891·80(26·83)	2612·97	224·93	16988·75	23·04	184024·50(60·44)	2·93
c. Orange ..	1018·77(30·64)	5367·90	362·95	5161·15	4311·84	68404·50(22·46)	5·27
d. Potato ..	20·70(0·62)	207·04	110·07	1266·91	96·97	1117·50(—)	17·49
e. Paddy ...	20·70(19·52)	5437·75	3926·75	62356·79	1108·75	17609·50(5·78)	8·98
f. Millet ..	101·80(3·06)	363·98	343·06	6192·23	20·40	370·00(0·12)	3·57
g. Tapioca ..	36·25(1·09)	884·96	814·46	4634·28	70·50	401·37(0·13)	24·41
h. Yam ..	59·03(1·78)	554·97	475·47	3575·53	79·50	597·50(0·20)	9·38
i. Others ..	248·68(7·48)	..	..	...	..	16934·05(5·56)	39·76
Total :	3324·48			10312·96		304495·92	

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TABLE F-3—*contd.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Project area:—							
a. Betel leaf ..	58·10(3·42)	2943·00	152·00	428·64	2786·00	7866·50(7·86)	50·64
b. Betel nut ..	19·50(0·89)	55·45	6·22	608·56	48·23	4719·00(4·71)	4·11
c. Orange ..	52·34(3·08)	876·99	539·36	8182·09	338·13	5128·50(5·13)	16·76
d. Potato ..	28·31(1·66)	644·75	513·75	5442·50	111.80	1143·00(1·14)	22·77
e. Paddy ..	1401·69(82·44)	18112·75	12653·00	152366·20	6418·00	77243·00(77·14)	12·92
f. Millet ..	4·10(0·24)	36·00	23·00	337·41	9·00	132·00(0·13)	8·78
g. Tapioca ..	—	..	...	..	—	—	..
h. Yam ..	5·60(0·33)	103·35	89·85	599·30	13·50	90·00(0·09)	18·46
i. Others ...	136·36(8·03)	...	..	4930·00	..	3805·30(3·80)	18·87
Total	1700·00(100·00)	..	..	172894·70	..	100127·58(100·00)	..

General area:—

a. Betel leaf	..	10·50(1·87)	252·0	40·00	85·00	212·00	486·00(1·83)	24·00
b. Betel nut	..	8·50(1·57)	25·75	13·60	1360·00	12·15	1053·00(4·10)	3·04
c. Orange	...	21·25(3·79)	59·50	50·50	360·19	9·00	70·75(0·27)	2·00
d. Potato	...	37·40(6·66)	1015·3	164·82	1837·27	850·50	8073·00(30·33)	27·15
e. Paddy	—	342·75(61·06)	4321·0	3301·50	4629·03	1019·50	12895·00(48·42)	12·00
f. Millet	..	22·94(4·09)	159·25	114·75	1943·87	63·50	737·00(2·77)	6·34
g. Tapioca	..	6·75(1·20)	250·0	200·00	900·00	50·00	225·00(0·84)	3·75
h. Yam	..	1·87(0·33)	43·07	38·87	194·35	8·00	23·00(0·09)	2·45
i. Others	..	109·41(19·43)	..	—	...	...	3821·00(14·34)	...
Total :		561·37(100·00)			12710·75		26627·75(100·00)	

Unit:— a. Betel leaf in Kuri — 1 Kuri = 20 bundles, 1 bundle = 144 of leaves (approx.).
b. Betel nut in Luti — 1 Luti = 16 kani, 1 kani = 360 nos. of nuts.
c. Orange in Luti — 1 Luti = 16 khar, 1 khar = 64 nos. of oranges.
d to h-in maunds.

A.G.P 3/61 (Tribal)—400—8-.-63.

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20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1897 AR7 Khasi AR7

(9) Cotton is grown on high lands and
248 slopes; it is sown in April, and becomes fit for picking by January.

311 Area and Outturn of Crops.—According to the Assam Administration Report for 1875-76, the area of the British portion of
241 the Khási and Jáintiá Hills District amounts to 2160 square miles,
648 of which only 110 are under cultivation; of the remainder, 1337 square miles are set down as cultivable, and 713 as uncultivable. The total area of the semi-independent Khási States is given as 3997 square miles, of which 176 are under cultivation, 2561 are cultivable, and 1260 uncultivable. In another portion of the same Report, the area under various crops throughout the entire District is thus approximately estimated:—Rice, 59,880 acres; other food grains, 37,800 acres; cotton, 1076 acres; potatoes, 33,880 acres. The average out-turn of rice per acre is estimated at 8 *maunds*, or nearly 6 cwt.; of other food grains, 3 *maunds*, or over 2 cwt.; of cotton, 1 *maund*, or 15 cwt.; of
(435) potatoes, 55 *maunds*, or nearly 40 cwt. The price of rice in 1875-76 was Rs. 4. 8 per *maund*, or 12s. 8d. a cwt., which gives Rs. 36 or £3. 12s. as the value of the rice crop obtained from one acre.

241 Condition of the Peasantry.—The Khásis can scarcely be
423 considered an agricultural people, as they do not grow sufficient
• 433 grain for their own subsistence, and are dependent to a great extent on imports of rice from the neighbouring Districts. Ten acres is generally considered a comfortable holding for a husbandman in the position of an ordinary Bengal peasant, but scarcely any man in the Hills depends entirely upon the produce of his land for
[231] his support. In the Jáintiá Hills a cultivator's position is con-
[554] sidered to be very low if he possesses no cattle, but performs all the operations of agriculture with his own hands. In that portion of the District, five acres is all that can be cultivated with a single
(465) pair of oxen, the average being four acres. A husbandman with a holding of five acres would not be so well off as a retail shopkeeper, nor would it enable him to live as comfortably as he could on a money wage of Rs. 8 or 10s. a month. The peasantry, however, as a class are not in debt. The land is owned chiefly by small proprietors, who occupy and cultivate their hereditary fields. The relations of landlord and tenant do not exist in the Hills, and no rent is payable to any one; consequently the principle of Act x. of 1859 (the Rent Law of Bengal) has no application.

231 The Animals used in agriculture are oxen; goats and pigs are
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supply. As the District depends so largely for its supply of rice upon Sylhet and Kámrúp, the state of the markets in those places exercises a greater influence on the rates in the Hills than any failure of the local harvest. In the year 1858 the price of common rice is said to have risen as high as 6 *seers* for the rupee, or 18s. 8d. per cwt., in consequence of the failure of the crops in the plains.

ROADS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.—The following are the eight principal lines of road in the Khási and Jaintia Hills:—(1) Road from Shillong to Cherrá, in Khásia. This road has recently (1877) been opened for wheeled traffic throughout its entire length. The Deputy-Commissioner's Report for 1876-77 states that the number of passengers passing up and down may be estimated at about 800 or 1000 every month, and the number of carts already used at about 30. The *dawk dák* brings travellers up to Shillong from Cherrá in two days by a comfortable and easy carriage service, while for natives a cheaper conveyance by bullock cart is available. At Cherrá there is a good *dák* bungalow in charge of a *khánsámá*, where the usual accommodation provided in a hotel is to be found. The stages to Shillong are as follow:—(2) Cherrá to Borrábil, 17 miles. The road in good throughout. There is a *dák* bungalow in charge of a *chaukídár* at Borrábil, where grain and rice are procurable. (3) Borrábil to Nongpoh, 14½ miles. The road is hilly throughout, but good. At Nongpoh, which is at an elevation of 1500 feet, there is a *dák* bungalow in charge of a *khánsámá*, from whom tea, liquors, and biscuits, etc. can be obtained. The *dák* bungalow is furnished with bedding, linen, etc. Grain and rice can be purchased in the *bázár*. (4) Nongpoh to Umsning, 18½ miles. At Umsning, elevation 1500 feet, there is a *dák* bungalow in charge of a *chaukídár*. Supplies or coolies are not procurable, but sometimes grain and rice can be purchased. (5) Umsning to Umjam, 15½ miles. At Umjam there is a Public Works Department rest-house in charge of a *chaukídár*. Supplies or coolies are not procurable. (6) Umjam to Shillong, 15½ miles, of which 6½ are a continuous ascent. At Shillong there are *dák* bungalows in the Artillery Lines, containing four separate rooms. A *khánsámá* is in attendance, and the rooms are completely furnished with bedding, linen, etc. This entire road, which has a total length of 63 miles, is as perfect a hill road as could be seen in any country, and a model of engineering skill. (7) Road running from Cherrá across the Hills, via Nongkrem, Mawfang, Chamá

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at Rs. 1,87,000, or £18,800, and the revenue derived by Government from the quarries was Rs. 63,166, or £6316. In addition, the Khási Chiefs receive a revenue from this source of more than £1000.

Iron.—The smelting of iron was once the chief industry in the Khási Hills, and a considerable quantity of the metal used to be exported into Sylhet, both in the crude and the manufactured state. Recently, however, this industry has almost died out, in the face of the competition of the superior article imported from England and sold in the plains at a cheaper rate. The indigenous methods of extracting, washing, and smelting the ore have been minutely described by Professor Oldham. The following description is taken from Mr. Allen's Report, dated 1858, at which date the annual export of smelted iron was estimated at 45,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 67,500, or £6750, at the rate of Rs. 1. 8 *per maund*:—"The ore is said to be most abundant and of the best quality in the State of Khyrim, especially at the villages of Nongkrim and Nongmáhi. A few iron articles, such as *dáos* or hill knives, *kodális* or cutlocks, spear and arrow-heads, are manufactured by the Khási smiths in the Hills; but the greater bulk of the smelted iron is sent to the plains for sale in circular lumps weighing about 4 or 5 *seers*. These lumps, called *bárá*, sell at Chirrápúnji for from Rs. 1. 4 to Rs. 1. 6 *per maund*. The best iron, however, which in bazars into bars called *pati*, sells for from Rs. 1. 10 to Rs. 1. 12 *per maund*. Khási iron is preferred to English, in consequence of its greater malleability. It is much used by the native boat-builders of Sylhet and the neighbouring Districts to make fastenings for the timbers of their boats. When brought into the market, it is more than half dross, and it is this circumstance which renders the iron trade unprofitable. The cost of carriage from the Hills to the plains is about 6 *annás per maund*; and the traders, who are all Khásis themselves, affirm that they get an average profit of only 2 *annás per maund*." The tables of trade for 1876-77 return no smelted iron as exported from the Hills, but Rs. 3000 of iron implements exported, against nails and ironmongery imported to the value of Rs. 18,000.

The Manufactures of the District, besides iron, consist of coarse cotton and woollen cloth, plain silver work, rude implements of husbandry, coarse bags made of the fibre of the pine-apple, common pottery, and mats and baskets. With the exception of the

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of parents undergoing considerable privations rather than deny their children education; and in many families it has become a matter of ordinary routine to send the children to school. This only refers to the younger children; for after boys have attained their fourteenth or fifteenth year, their parents grow impatient for their pecuniary assistance. It is the custom among the Khásis to inure very young children to work, so that they may earn enough to support themselves as soon as ever they can manage strap and basket. It is common for a boy to realise from ten *pice* to five *annás* a day for his parents; and it is considered sufficient sacrifice for the latter to have kept him at school up to his fourteenth year.'

Khasi States.—The following is a list of the nineteen semi-independent Khási States or Democracies, with the particulars of information that are available for each, taken from the Assam Administration Report for 1875-76:—

(1) Bolawa or Wahadi.—Name of Siem, U Baman Singh, age in 1876, 16 years; approximate population of State, 369; estimated gross revenue—from market dues, Rs. 10; from *mulkhánd* on lime quarry, Rs. 16,000—total, Rs. 16,010, or £1601; products, rice, millet, *tejpát* or bay leaves, black pepper, Piper nigrum; minerals, lime.

(2) Chabad or Shella.—Siem, U Hájan Máuk, aged 42; population, 8280; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 7000; judicial fines, Rs. 150; *mulkhánd* on lime quarry, Rs. 200; *semuddri* holding in Sylhet, Rs. 1300—total, Rs. 8650, or £865; products, cotton, millet, betel-nuts, *ádá*, oranges, black pepper, Piper nigrum, chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey; manufactures, bamboo mats and bamboo baskets; minerals, lime, iron, and coal.

(3) Shella.—Wihaddálám, U Jirdi, aged 29, and U Rái Singh, aged 35, of whom the former can read and write both Khási and Bengáli a little; population, 5511; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 300; judicial fines, Rs. 400—total, Rs. 700, or £70; products, oranges, betel-nuts, and pine-apples; manufactures, bamboo mats and bamboo baskets; minerals, lime and coal.

(4) Khyrim or Nongkrem.—Siem, U Kher Singh, aged 32; population, 20,504; revenue—from pension allowed by the British Government, Rs. 1800; market dues, Rs. 5000; judicial fines, Rs. 400; *mulkhánd* on lime quarry, Rs. 1900; contributions for State purposes, Rs. 1000—total, Rs. 10,100, or £1010; products, rice, cotton, millet, 'Job's tears,' caoutchouc, cinnamon, *sukphlang*

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(a kind of turnip), betel-nuts, Indian corn, *pán*, oranges, tea, potatoes, black pepper, Fiyer nigrum, chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey; manufactures, cotton cloth, *eri* silk cloth, *dáos* or hill knives, *kodális* or mattocks, knives, hammers, crowbars, wedges, mats, and baskets; minerals, lime, coal, and iron. 631 651 633

(5) MYLIEM or MYLIEHN.—Siem, U Hain Mínik, aged 30; population, 12,266; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 250; State contributions, Rs. 1000; judicial fines, Rs. 203; forest rent, Rs. 15—total, Rs. 1468, or £169; products, cinnamon, sugar-cane, rice, 'Job's tears,' Indian corn, *sohphlang*, ginger, and millet; manufactures, *dáos* and baskets; minerals, iron.

(6) LANGRIN or LANGRIEN.—Siem, U Ber, aged 23; population, 1867; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 250; *málikhad* on lime quarry, Rs. 300; forest rent, Rs. 60; fisheries, Rs. 30—total, Rs. 560, or £56; products, rice, millet, chillies, turmeric, and ginger; minerals, lime and coal.

(7) MAHARAM.—Siem, Andhar Singh, aged 38; population, 6-35. revenue—from State contributions, Rs. 400; market dues, Rs. 100; forest revenue, Rs. 35; *málikhad* on lime quarry, Rs. 350; judicial fines, Rs. 120—total, Rs. 1045, or £104. 10s.; products, 'Job's tears,' black pepper, Fiyer nigrum, chillies, bay leaves, honey, Indian corn, *sohphlang*, cinnamon, cassia-bark, sugar-cane, and ginger; manufactures, *dáos*, *kodális*, and hammers; minerals, iron and lime.

(8) MACHANG or MACHONG.—Siem, U Jit Singh, aged 33; population, 1238; revenue—from lime quarries, Rs. 250. 8; house tax, Rs. 9; rent of fisheries, Rs. 30; judicial fines, Rs. 100; State contributions, Rs. 90—total, Rs. 520. 8, or £52. 1s.; products, honey, bees-wax, cotton, rice, millet, 'Job's tears,' *sohphlang*; manufactures, mats; minerals, lime.

(9) [illegible] Siem, U Dwarka, aged [illegible]; population, 947; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 180; State contributions of an uncertain nature, Rs. 150—total, Rs. 330, or £33; products, potatoes, millet, chillies, turmeric, honey, and ginger; manufactures, mats; minerals, lime, coal, and iron.

(10) MALAI-SOH-MAT or MALAKHMAT.—Siem, U Shangram Singh, aged 33; population, 299; revenue from market dues, Rs. 50; *málikhad* on lime quarry, Rs. 750; State contributions, Rs. 50; forest revenue, Rs. 50—total, Rs. 900, or £90; products, rice, millet, 'Job's tears,' ginger, chillies, turmeric, bay leaves, betel-nuts, and oranges; manufactures, mats; minerals, lime.

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• 931

431
451
432 •

...ayar, of produce, cattle, sheep, hardware, jute bags, ...ppers, rubber, and tea leaves, minerals, lime and coal.

These statistics give the following totals for the eastern Kōlār ... — Population, 78,901; persons, 64,758; ..., or 821 per square mile, of which the ... is ..., or 821 per sq. mi. is derived from ... sources. The aggregate area of these taxes is therefore returned at ... square miles.

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Subdivisional Administration. — The ... Kōlār Division which constitutes the Jāvalī Hills as organized subdivision, under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner, whose headquarters are at the village of Jāvalī. This Subdivision does ... villages, for which ... the ... cost of administration is returned at ... rupees. The following statistics, relating only to the Jāvalī Hills, are taken from the Report of the Assistant Commissioner for 1930-31; for the rest, all information is included in the preceding portions of the Statistical Account, which apply generally to the whole District of the Kōlār and Jāvalī Hills. In the year 1930-31 the total revenue of the Jāvalī Subdivision amounted to ... rupees, or ... per ..., of which the ... was derived from ... The total value of the exports from the Subdivision ... returned at ... rupees, or ... per ..., including ... consist of ..., valued at ..., and ... of ..., valued at ... The total value of the imports ... returned at ... rupees, or ... per ..., chiefly ... and ... cloth from Bengal, valued at ..., ... cloth from Assam, ... rupees, consist of rice, value ..., ... basis of wood fuel, value ..., ... consist of salt, value ..., ... consist of tobacco, value ... These figures are compiled from reports submitted ... police ... at Jāvalī, on the ... and from ... an apparent balance of trade against the Subdivision amounting to ..., or ... rupees, ... The population of Jāvalī and the surrounding villages is ... souls.

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Climate, Rainfall, Temperature. — The climate of the Kōlār and Jāvalī Hills is mild and equable. In ... the temperature ... there ... from about ... in December to ... or ... in the hottest months. Out of doors ... the ... between about ... in the cold weather and ... in May and June. A temperature higher than ... is seldom recorded. During the three years ending

on a terrestrial past, different from that of the Khasi groups, the former having been ruled by the powerful, but somewhat fossilized dynasty of the Jaintia Raja until the Jaintia Wars of the British, the latter by small independent chiefs. Yet Jaintia social organization appears on the whole to preserve the matrilineal social structure clearer and to be less influenced by plains-civilization, than that of the Khasi, though a few features of Brahmanistic religious observances and also some traces of social admixture are found in the immediate vicinity of Jowai, the former summer residence of the Jaintia Raja. Stronger no doubt, than this influence, was that exercised by the British and non-Khasi Indians in the provincial capital Shillong since 1864. Methods of agriculture and other aspects of material civilization differ but little in the Jaintia and Khasi plateau-areas.

The same cannot be said of both the War-Khasi and War-Jaintias. Linguistically their affiliations are with the Khasi or Jaintias respectively of the plateau-areas. Economically, however, both War-groups form a separate pan-leaf cultivating unit in the little accessible steep southern slopes of the Khasi and Jaintia Hill massif. Both War-groups live in the environments of bamboo covered flats and basins, sharply differentiated from the rock barren plateau with its perennial winds and the forest, if solitary beauty of its highland beetle, which forms the background of both the Khasi and Jaintia plateau-groups.

The age of the War-Khasi and -Jaintias, as two independent economic — and two half-independent dialectical linguistic entities, is an intricate problem. The two War-groups subsist on pan-leaf cultivation as a means only, grown in the thick rice-gardens as manure, not as food-cultivation, as in the plateau-groups, because there is insufficient space on the steep slopes, for vegetable gardens or fields. The pan-leaf cultivators therefore depend on food, purchased from outside. The slopes seem to have been uninhabited until not long ago. Yet pan-leaf chewing is such an integral part of Khasi life, that until quite recently, and occasionally even now, the distance between two places is not measured by the number of hours one has to walking, but by the number of betel-nut and pan-leaf portages, consumed on the way. Also the common translation among Khasi expresses the wish that as well as may eat pan in the Kingdom of God. Yet pan-cultivation and the settlements of the War-people as pan-leaf cultivators in the southern slopes seem comparatively young. Pan-cultivation on the plateau is impossible. It is therefore possible that pan was for a long time only a much valued import article from the plains, bartered against Khasi ox and ivory products of the plains, by both War-Khasi and War-Jaintia women and men.

According to a tradition, across which I came among the Nongkseh clan of the Nongstoiñ village, the ancestors of the present War people were on the plateau at a time when no pan-cultivation was going on in the slopes and none of the present big returns of pan-rice gardens was yet held by their present (War-) owners. A not distant ancestor of a Nongkseh clan-member who lived two or three generations ago told the story as if living pan at